

### **REMARKS**

Claims 14-26 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome this rejection and not to overcome the prior art. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 2, first paragraph. The amendment to claim 14 does not alter the scope of the claim. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,009). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the method of claim 14, a device having a base layer and metallic fine structures is produced. The final device is flexible. Tanaka discloses a laminate organic resin wiring board. The wiring board is made on a ceramic substrate 1 and contains many layers, as seen in Figs. 1-5 of Tanaka. Due to the material and number of layers employed in making the device of Tanaka, the device of Tanaka cannot be flexible. Therefore, since Tanaka does not disclose a final device which is flexible, as claimed in claim 14, Tanaka does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 14.

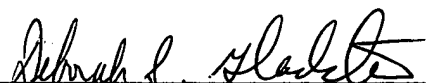
Claims 24 and 25 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 449122018000.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claim 14 as follows.

14. (Amended) A method for manufacturing flexible metallic fine structures on a thin base layer made of a flexible organic material, [said method] comprising [the steps of]:

providing an auxiliary bearer made of a material that is at least largely transparent to laser radiation;

applying [a] the base layer onto the auxiliary bearer;

producing a flexible metallic fine structure on the base layer; and

detaching the base layer from the auxiliary bearer by projecting laser radiation from a laser through the auxiliary bearer onto the base layer.